

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAKAR 01853 141644 Z

46

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01

RSC-01 /032 W

----- 056461

P R 141200 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3290

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1853

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP SG

SUBJ: DETENTION OF NEAL BALL

REF: STATE 070383

1. SUMMARY. MR NEAL BALL ( REFTEL), VISITNG DAKAR ON PRIVATE TRIP RELATED TO HIS INTEREST IN AFRICAN ART, WAS DETAINED MAY 11 BY SENEGALESE AUTHORITIES, FOLLOWING HIS ENTRY INTO THE IFAN MUSEUM DURING TOUR OF MUSEUM BY PRINCE SIHANOUK. AFTER BEING HELD SEVERAL HOURS, EMBASSY OBTAINED HIS RELEASE AND IN MAJOR EFFORT SUCCEEDED IN GETTING HIM ABOARD SCHEDULED FLIGHT FOR BAMAKO.

2. MR BALL CLAIMS THAT BEFORE ENTERING MUSEUM, HE INQUIRED IF IT WAS OPEN AND RECEIVED AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE, THAT HE WAS UNAWARE THAT THE MUSEUM WAS CLOSED DUE TO SIHANOUK'S PRESENCE AND THAT HE PASSED SEVERAL GUARDS UNCHALLENGED, INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL HONOR GUARDS. WHEN ARRESTED, HE WAS INFORMALLY ACCUSED OF DELIBERATELY ATTEMPTING TO ENTER BECAUSE OF SIHANOUK'S PRESENCE.

3. CONSIDERABLE TIME ELAPSED BEFORE POLICE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT AN AMERICAN WAS BEING DETAINED. EVEN AT THAT POINT, OFFICIAL REFUSED TO PROVIDE NAME OR CHARGES. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY CONSULAR OFFICER LOCATED PLACE OF DETENTION, PROCEEDED THERE DIRECTLY AND ASCERTAINED THAT DETAINEE WAS MR BALL. SHE ATTEMPTED TO SECURE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAKAR 01853 141644 Z

RELEASE, BUT WAS INFORMED THAT PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF  
AMBASSADOR  
WITH DIRECTOR OF THE SURETE WOULD BE NECESSARY. EFFORT WAS MADE  
TO

REACH DIRECTOR BY PHONE, BUT HE WAS UNAVAILABLE, BEING WITH  
SIHANOUK

ENTOURAGE. AMBASSADOR THEREFORE WENT FIRST TO COMMISSARIAT WHERE  
BALL WAS DETAINED, WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING RELEASE THROUGH  
LOCAL COMMISSIONER, THEN PROCEEDED TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WHERE  
DIRECTOR WAS FINALLY LOCATED. DIRECTOR GRANTED RELEASE, ASSERTING  
HOWEVER, THAT MR BALL COULD NOT HELP BUT HAVE KNOWN THAT HE WAS  
INTRUDING INTO OFFICIAL VISIT SITUATION.

4. EMBASSY OFFICERS ESCORTED MR BALL TO HIS HOTEL, HELPED HIM  
PACK AND RUSHED HIM TO AIRPORT. EMBASSY ADMIN OFFICER MEANWHILE HAD  
SUCCEEDED IN DELAYING DEPARTURE AIR MALI FLIGHT BY TEN MINUTES SO  
THAT BALL WAS ABLE TO BOARD.

5. COMMENT: WE REGRET THIS INCIDENT, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE RESULTED  
FROM SERIES OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND SOME LACK OF COMMUNICATION AS  
WELL AS FROM A CERTAIN NERVOUSNESS OVER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
SIHANOUK VISIT. DESPITE SEVERAL TRYING MOMENTS WHILE IT LASTED, WE  
DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS OTHER THAN ISOLATED INCIDENT, HOPEFULLY TO  
BE SOON FORGOTTEN BY ALL CONCERNED. CERTAINLY WE HAVE IMPRESSION  
THAT GOS HAS NO DESIRE TO PURSUE MATTER.  
CLARK

CONFIDENTIAL  
NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973DAKAR01853  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** DAKAR  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730544/aaaajear.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 070383  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980211  
**Subject:** DETENTION OF NEAL BALL  
**TAGS:** OVIP, SG, (BALL, NEAL)  
**To:** AF  
BAMAKO  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005